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BEXAR COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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February 12, 2009

The Honorable Lamar Smith
United States Representative, District 21
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Smith:

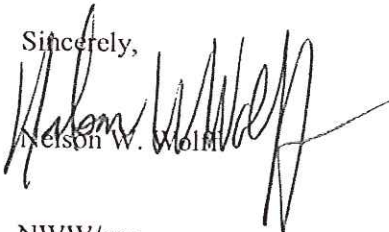
With the current economic situation, Bexar County is seeking opportunities to make county government more efficient. Installation of a new Inmate Property Conveyor System will achieve this in a major functional area within the Bexar County Adult Detention Center.

With a growing population in Bexar County, operation of the Adult Detention Center has proven to be a costly responsibility with an inmate population that varies from approximately 4200 to 4600. Over the past three years, the county has funded approximately \$40 million in facility improvements and preparations for a 1,000 bed addition. With an additional \$15 million, the renewals and upgrades to building systems to the existing 20+ year old jail will be complete.

The Inmate Property Conveyor System is one of the systems that is currently defunct and non-repairable. Without this automated system, staff must handle property multiple times, process and transport it to storage areas in another building, and retrieve it in the same manner. This results in longer processing when checking in and out, exposure of employees to health hazards, the potential for worker injuries, and opportunities for human errors. Installation of a new containerized conveyor/storage system will eliminate the hazards, improve accuracy, and reduce the amount of staff time needed to meet the Texas Commission on Jail Standards requirements for securing and storing personal property of inmates. I ask that you make this project one of your top priorities during the appropriations process.

Bexar County Commissioners Court thank you for your leadership and support in helping Bexar County improve efficiencies without reducing the services required by the State of Texas Commission on Jail Standards.

Sincerely,


Nelson W. Wolff

NWW/ccs